MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2015/2016

PEN0045 – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

(All Foundations)

3 MARCH 2016
9:00AM – 11:00AM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SEVEN** pages only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A**, **B** and **C**.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Hazards of Leather Production

1 When one hears the word "leather", he or she probably thinks about delicate, attractive and **exquisite** jackets, shoes and purses. Little thought would be specifically given to the leather itself or how it goes from being the raw hide of an animal to a finished product. Leather has come to symbolise luxury and status, and most people do not realise the hazards associated with the leather industry and the impact it has on animals, humans and the environment.

2 First and foremost, raising animals in large farms can be a threat to animals and the environment. Most leather comes from animals raised for meat and milk, and leather is the most important byproduct of the meat industry. However, factory farms often **disregard** the welfare of the animals in their farms. These animals are often given no attention, deprived of veterinary care and exposed to extreme weather without any shelter. They are also fed a steady diet of hormones to fatten them and antibiotics to keep them alive in extremely poor living conditions. Raising animals whose skin eventually becomes leather is also a waste of resources as these farms require a wide area of pastureland and a considerable amount of fossil fuels. Studies show that more than a third of fossil fuels consumed in the United States are used in animal farms.

3 To minimise the **downsides** of leather production, especially the negative effects it has on animals and the environment, some leather makers advertise their products as eco-friendly. However, turning skin into leather itself requires massive amounts of energy and dangerous chemicals. Tanning, a process of turning animal skin into leather is an important process in leather production. Tanning is necessary to stabilise the collagen or protein fibres in skins so that they stop biodegrading. The process involves the use of various harmful chemicals which are very dangerous. Chromium, for instance, a chemical used in the tanning process, is used in about 90 per cent of leather tanning operations worldwide, and its use is a concern in regards to its potential impact. While there are other methods of tanning, such as vegetable tanning, chromium is used most of all because it produces leather that is softer and suppler than other methods, and does not discolour or lose its shape as much in water. Chromium-tanned hides also pick up more colours during the dyeing process. Another method, vegetable-tanning, sounds more eco-friendly, but it can be just as polluting as chrome-tanning.

4 As chemicals used in the tanning process is detrimental, tanneries in developed countries have strict regulations for purifying water that is **contaminated** during the tanning process. Because of this, majority of the tanning industries operate from developing countries where rules and regulations are marginal or non-existent. In fact, 95 per cent of tanneries in the United States have moved their operations to developing countries to avoid environmental and health regulations.

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5 India is a prime example of a country with minimal law enforcement. A study reports that 69,000 tons of chrome salts are used annually in 1,600 Indian tanneries, yet workers are not provided with proper safety equipment or protective gear regardless of the dangers. Work within the tannery itself is fraught with dangers often because of inadequate or non-existent worker protections. These include falls on improperly-drained floors and injuries from heavy machinery. Prolonged exposure to chemicals can also cause workers to face respiratory problems and infections. Many workers also die from cancer possibly caused by exposure to toxic chemicals used to process and dye the leather.

6 The waste from tanning industry also has serious **repercussions** for the environment. The primary environmental effect is the dumping of solid and liquid waste. When chromium-laced waste is dumped into regional water systems, it can damage fish gills and incite respiratory problems, infections and birth defects. It can also instigate a number of serious cancers in animals throughout the food chain. Besides that, groundwater is also affected as a study on groundwater samples collected near tanneries have shown the presence of arsenic, chromium, lead and zinc.

7 Considering all the harmful effects it has on humans and the environment, it would seem that banning leather production would be the most logical solution. However, it is not the best solution. Putting an end to the leather industry would be **devastating** for the thousands of families around the world who have become dependent on leather production as their main source of income. Besides that, in impoverished nations like Bangladesh, this industry generates 600 million U.S dollars in its exports each year. Halting leather industry will affect economic growth of countries that depend on the industry.

8 When all is considered, the best option is not to stop the leather industry altogether but to create and enforce regulations and practices that would make the leather production process more sustainable. In fact, many regions are making efforts to clean up these polluting industries. However, the progress is slow. Take Kanpur, India, the self-proclaimed "leather city of the world" for example. This city once housed more than 10,000 tanneries which, in 2003, were dumping more than 22 tons of toxic waste into the Ganges river every day. The city took action in 2009, sealing the highest-polluting tanneries in town, and it has more or less slowly improved the conditions in the tanneries now.

Adapted from Ecopol (n.d) *The Hazards of Leather Production.* Retrieved from http://leathersustainability.weebly.com/ and Tarantola, A. (6 March 2014). *How Leather is Slowly Killing the People and Places that Make it.* Retrieved from http://gizmodo.com/how-leather-is-slowly-killing-the-people-and-places-tha-1572678618

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Part 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)

Instructions: Based on the passage, provide a word or phrase that best expresses each of the following words.

Example:

Word	Meaning
exquisite (line 2)	beautiful

a. disregard (line 10)

b. downsides (line 18)

c. contaminated (line 34)

d. repercussions (line 48)

e. devastating (line 59)

Part 2: True-False Statements (5 marks)

Instructions: For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.

a. Leather has come to symbolise luxury and status, and most people are not aware of the hazards associated with leather industry.

b. Resources such as land and fossil fuel are wasted to raise animals whose skin eventually becomes leather.

c. 95 per cent of the tanneries in the United States have moved to developing countries because a majority of tanneries operate in these countries.

d. Tanneries in India use 69, 000 tons of chrome salts annually because they have minimal law enforcement.

e. Although many regions have started to clean up the polluting tanning industry, they have not made any progress.

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Part 3: Comprehension (15 marks)

Instructions: Answer all the following questions based on the passage.

a. How do factory farms treat animals that are raised in the farms? (2 marks)

b. Why is tanning an important process in leather industry? (1 mark)

c. Why is chromium used more than other tanning methods? (3 marks)

d. State three dangers that workers in tanneries in India face because of poor worker protections. (3 marks)

e. How does dumping of solid and liquid waste from the tanning industry affect the environment? (3 marks)

f. i. Why is banning leather production not the best solution? (2 marks)

ii. What is the best option to solve issues surrounding the leather industry? (1 mark)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [15 MARKS]

Part 1: Error Analysis (5 marks)

Instructions: The following extract contains 5 errors on Subject-Verb Agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.

Example:

No.	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	are	is

Bone Up Calcium Intake

1 One of the minerals humans need **are** calcium, best known for keeping our bones and teeth healthy. Almost every cell in our body uses calcium in some way. "Calcium is extremely important for our overall health. It is also important to consume enough calcium because it continues to strengthen the bones until the age of 30, when peak bone mass is reached," says Liew Yen Lee, the senior nutritionist of Fonterra Brands (Malaysia). After that age, calcium is used in bone maintenance, and it slow down bone density loss, which is a natural part of ageing.

2 Both men and women below 50, she says, need 1,000mg of calcium daily, but women has a higher calcium requirement after 50 since bone loss happens earlier as a result of menopause. "According to a report published by the International Osteoporosis Foundation, the calcium intake among Malaysians are in the insufficient range, below 500mg per day," she says.

3 Calcium can be easily found in dairy products such as milk, yogurt and cheese. One cup of fresh milk contain approximately the same amount of calcium that six cups of spinach provide. Other dietary sources of calcium include green leafy vegetables such as broccoli, collards, kale, mustard greens, turnip greens, *bok choy* and Chinese cabbage.

4 Liew says when we do not get enough calcium, it is taken from our bones, making them weak and brittle in the long run. "Those who have insufficient daily calcium intake may be at risk of developing brittle bone disease or osteoporosis because calcium is drawn from the bones, which acts as a reserve."

Adapted from Veera, S. (22 September 2015). *Bone Up on Calcium Intake.* New Straits Times.

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Part 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)
Instructions: Write the appropriate usage of tenses for the words in the brackets.

Example: Stephen William Hawking, the author of the international bestseller, *A Brief History of Time*, **(0) <u>was</u> (be)** born on 8 January 1942 in Oxford, England.

Stephen Hawking

Stephen William Hawking, the author of the international bestseller, *A Brief History of Time*, **(0) <u>was</u> (be)** born on 8 January 1942 in Oxford, England. When he was eight, his family moved to St. Albans, a town about 20 miles north of London. At the age of eleven, Hawking (1) _____ (go) to St. Albans School and then to University College, Oxford, his father's old college. Hawking wanted to study mathematics, although his father preferred medicine. Mathematics was not available at University College, so he (2) _____ (pursue) physics instead. After three years and not very much hard work, he was awarded a first-class honours degree in natural science. Hawking then went on to Cambridge to do research in cosmology as no one was working in that area in Oxford at the time. He knew that Fred Hoyle, who was a famous English astronomer, (3) _____ (work) in Cambridge. Although he (4) _____ (hope) to get Fred Hoyle as his supervisor, he got Denis Sciama instead. After gaining his Ph.D, he became a Research Fellow and later a Professorial Fellow at Gonville and Caius College.

Hawking (5) _____ (work) on the basic laws which govern the universe for more than 30 years now. His many publications (6) _____ (include) *The Large Scale Structure of Spacetime* with G. F. R. Ellis, *General Relativity: An Einstein Centenary Survey*, with W. Israel and many more. Among the popular books that Hawking (7) _____ (publish) are *My Brief History, Black Holes and Baby Universes*, *The Universe in a Nutshell*, *The Grand Design* and his bestseller *A Brief History of Time*. Hawking has twelve honorary degrees. He is the recipient of many awards, medals and prizes. Currently, he (8) _____ (hold) a position as a fellow of The Royal Society and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences.

Hawking was diagnosed with ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a form of motor neurone disease, shortly after his 21st birthday. In spite of being wheelchair-bound and dependent on a computerised voice system for communication, Hawking (9) _____ (continue) to juggle his family life, his research in theoretical physics and his numerous public lectures. He hopes that he (10) _____ (make) it into space one day.

Adapted from Stephen Hawking. (n.d.). *Stephen Hawking*. Retrieved from http://www.hawking.org.uk/about-stephen.html

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SECTION C: WRITING [20 MARKS]

Instructions: Study the following figures. Using only the information given, write about the number of gymnasium users in the three gymnasiums from October until December 2015. In your writing, you are to link the information given in the two visuals. **You should write 150 to 200 words.**

Figure 1: The Number of Gymnasium Users in Three Gymnasiums from October to December 2015

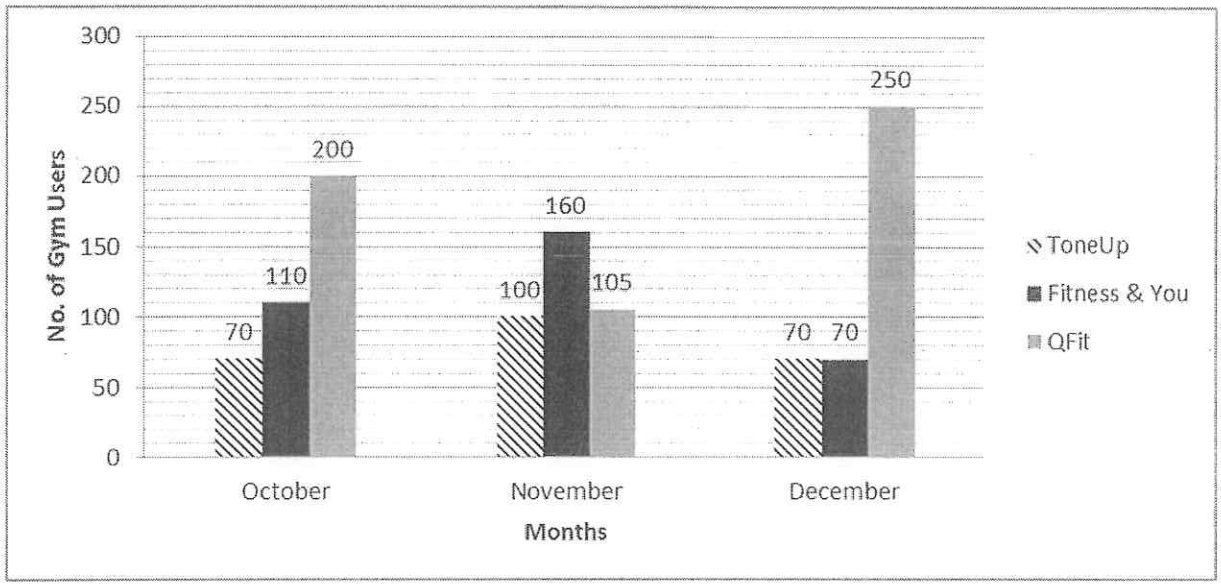

Table 1: Daily Fitness Sessions Provided by Three Gymnasiums from October to December 2015

Gymnasiums	Sessions		
	October	November	December
ToneUp		▪ Aerobics	
Fitness & You	▪ Zumba	▪ Yoga ▪ Zumba	
QFit	▪ Zumba ▪ Yoga	▪ Zumba	▪ Zumba ▪ Aerobics ▪ Kickboxing

End of paper